

Application No. 09/930,053

Amendment dated December 19, 2005

Response to Office Action of August 19, 2005

Atty. Docket No. 2717P039

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TC/A.U. 2666

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1, 10, 14, 17 and 22 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Thus, claims 1-26 are pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS -- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – CLAIMS 1, 14, 17 AND 22

Claims 1-9 and 14-26 were rejected as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (*AAPA*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,408,001 issued to Chuah, et al. (*Chuah*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 14, 17 and 22 are not rendered obvious by *AAPA* and *Chuah*.

Claim 1 recites:

determining a protocol format in which a packet is formatted based on one or more label values in a header of a MultiProtocol Label Switching (MPLS) formatted packet, wherein label values in a first range corresponding to a plurality of values indicate an encapsulated packet of a first network protocol type and label values in a second range corresponding to a plurality of values indicate an encapsulated packet of a second network protocol type...

Thus, Applicants claim use of a range of values in a MPLS header to determine whether the MPLS packet has encapsulated within it a packet of a first network protocol type or a second network protocol type. Claims 14, 17 and 22 recite similar limitations.

Applicants agree with the Office Action that *AAPA* does not disclose use of the MPLS header for information related to the type of packet encapsulated within the MPLS formatted packet. See page 3 of the August 17, 2005 Office Action. *Chuah* discloses analysis of header field values. However, *Chuah* only discloses use of IP packets with

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MPLS labels. Further the “protocol” disclosed by *Chauh* is “Internet Telephony,” which is not a network protocol and is indicated by a single value not a range of values. See col. 10, line 6. Therefore, *Chauh* cannot teach or suggest wherein label values in a first range corresponding to a plurality of values indicate an encapsulated packet of a first network protocol type and label values in a second range corresponding to a plurality of values indicate an encapsulated packet of a second network protocol type as claimed. Accordingly, no combination of *AAPA* and *Chauh* can render claims 1, 14, 17 and 22 obvious.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1. Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14. Claims 18-21 depend from claim 17. Claims 23-26 depend from claim 22. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 2-9, 15, 16, 18-21 and 23-26 are not rendered obvious by *AAPA* and *Chauh* for at least the reasons set forth above.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – CLAIMS 10-13

Claims 10-13 were rejected as being unpatentable over *AAPA* and *Chauh* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,327 issued to Manchester, et al. (*Manchester*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 10-14 are not rendered obvious by *AAPA*, *Chauh* and *Manchester*.

Claim 10 recites:

switching control circuitry coupled to the ingress interface, the switching circuitry to analyze one or more labels in a header of a MultiProtocol Label Switching (MPLS) encapsulated packet received via one or the ports of the ingress interface, the switching control circuitry to determine an underlying network protocol format in which the data of the MPLS encapsulated packet is formatted based on whether values stored in

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the one or more labels correspond to a first plurality of values or a second plurality of values, the switching control circuitry further to select one or more physical links of the backplane over which the MPLS encapsulated packet is to be transmitted to the egress interface based on the one or more labels.

Thus, Applicants claim use of a range of values in a MPLS header to determine whether the MPLS packet has encapsulated within it a packet of a first network protocol type or a second network protocol type.

As discussed above, no combination of *AAPA* and *Chuah* teaches or suggests determining an encapsulated network packet type based on MPLS header values. *Manchester* is not cited to cure, nor does it cure, the deficiencies of *AAPA* and *Chuah* set forth above. Accordingly, no combination of *AAPA*, *Chuah* and *Manchester* can teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 10.

Claims 11-13 depend from claim 10. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 11-13 are not rendered obvious by *AAPA*, *Chuah* and *Manchester* for at least the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-26 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,
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